



Minutes Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns February 5, 2015

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Thursday, February 5, 2015, 6:30 P.M. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

MEMBERS Present:

Chair Robert Kizere
Vice Chair Irene Mochel
Diane Moran
Martha Ashburn
Paul Bennewitz
Rachel Phillips
Tom Ringhofer
Ben Campbell
Sarah Kader

MEMBERS Absent:

Kathleen Goode (Not Excused)

Guests Present:

Eric Iwersen, Presenter
Gabby Abbott, ASU Journalism Student
Irena Baroness von Behr, Tempe Resident
Jeff Oats, Tempe Resident
Jim Lamb, Tempe Resident

Diversity Staff Present:

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Chair Kizere called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M., requesting **Vice Chair Irene Mochel** facilitate the meeting.

Public Appearances

No members of the public requested to speak.

Agenda Item 1 - Consideration of Minutes: MCDC – January 8, 2015 Minutes

The January 8, 2015 MCDC Minutes were APPROVED, with amendment to delete a duplicate paragraph on page 4.

Motion: **Commissioner Ashburn**

Seconded: **Commissioner Ringhofer**

Motion carried.

A question was raised by **Commissioner Bennewitz** as to why Jeff Oats is listed as a potential commissioner on the minutes. Staff indicated that Mr. Oats' application to be appointed to the Commission was submitted to City Council.

Agenda Item 2 - 8th Street Creamery Project by Principal Planner Eric Iwersen.

Public Works Transportation Principal Planner Eric Iwersen presented the design of a multi-use pathway and streetscape improvements along the Creamery Branch Rail Spur and 8th Street. The streetscape improvements would be adjacent to and integrated with the rail path. It includes trees, enhanced sidewalks, ADA accessibility, on street parking configurations and improved bicycle lanes.

Crossings and intersections will include raised crosswalks which slow traffic and facilitate higher visibility and accessibility. The Commission discussed the need for audible crossing signals. On-street accessible parking is an emerging issue. It is proposed that up to twelve on-street accessible parking spaces be installed close to intersections and raised crosswalks.

Commissioner Ringhofer raised the issue of sufficient clearance for vans in accessible on-street parking locations. Plants and trees, or medians obstructing access can make unusable by vans which needed unobstructed space to lower ramps.

Questions were answered regarding accessibility. The project will include curb ramps, audible signals, tree shade and accessible on-street parking on both sides of the street from Rural to Dorsey, and then on the north side of the street from Dorsey to McClintock. **Commissioner Ringhofer** requested clarification of the “non-planted choker” term on the diagram, which is a type of median to slow traffic speed, which has no plant material.

The timeline for construction document completion is in six months to start construction by December, so that completion is spring 2016.

Chair Robert Kizere requested he be notified of meetings regarding the project so he can review the construction documents to confirm accessibility. The project will return to the CDC pending further details in the summer 2015.

Agenda Item 3 – Alternate meeting Location Discussion – Staff Michele Stokes

An acceptable location for CDC meetings would include: accessible parking, short distance from parking lot and bus stop, accessible restrooms, sound integrity, teleconference capacity and AV projection equipment availability. The Museum's entry and parking lot are not level which makes access more difficult than optimal. Additionally there is additional expense to the City for security at this location.

Inquiry was made regarding the following: The **Pyle Center** conference room is not available during commission meeting times. Pyle can accommodate the CDC in a small classroom, but they have no teleconferencing or AV equipment. The **Library** - inquiry was made through chain of command to use the conference room during closed hours. This option was not available. However, the conference room is available Monday evenings, if desired. Locations that staff reviewed which were not acceptable included the **Vihel Art Center, Transit Center's Don Cassano Room** and **City Hall**.

Commissioners Kader and Phillips said meeting on other days would be preferable if it would facilitate Library. Further research by staff will be completed to determine feasibility at **Hatton Hall** or other locations.

Agenda Item 4 – 2015 Disability Awards update and meeting dates
By Vice Chair Irene Mochel

The Mayor's Disability Awards event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum.

Vice **Chair Mochel** and **Chair Kizere** confirmed the guest speaker, Dr. Terri Hedgpeth, is in charge of Information Technology Accessibility Director for A.S.U. Food will be graciously donated by Rigatoni's. **Chair Kizere** indicated there was a correction as to the speaker's title and that the Title Sponsor Luke Miller will provide the check for \$2,500 this week. Event information is posted on-line at www.Tempe.gov/disabilityawards.

Discussion was held on the wording of the Outstanding Student award category description. A revision was made to eliminate the specification that nominees must be a "senior" because some schools no longer use that designation and to delete the references to employment and volunteer. The new description: "**Outstanding Tempe Student** – The Tempe Diablos provides scholarships that recognize outstanding Tempe students with disabilities who demonstrate dedication and success as a student."

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Public Restrooms by Chair Robert Kizere

Chair Kizere confirmed that standard accessible bathroom stalls cannot include baby changing tables. **Commissioner Ashburn** reported and provided a handout on the placement of baby changing tables in the accessible restroom stalls. They are only allowed if the stall is oversized. The 2010 ADA regulations include an advisory at 604.8.1.1 indicating: "This space cannot be obstructed by baby changing tables or other fixtures or conveniences..." Staff agreed to follow up on any complaints regarding baby changing tables in the restrooms, to determine compliance with ADA.

Commissioner Ashburn's research on signage for accessible stall doors show it is not an ADA requirement. Only one other jurisdiction has additional requirements signs on toilet room doors. The ADA requires signage for a toilet room, not an individual stall.

Discussion was held on whether to go forward with the request to require restroom stall signage. The Commissioners confirmed pursuit of the agreed upon motion from last month's meeting... "to formalize a draft recommendation to City Council that appropriate changes be made to the Tempe City Code and other adopted Codes, if necessary, that would result in mandatory placement of decals or signage on accessible restroom stall doors." **Commissioner Ashburn** will draft the request.

Agenda Item #6 – White Cane Day Proposal Vice-Chair Irene Mochel

Vice Chair Mochel requested commissioners establish a subcommittee to coordinate a White Cane Day to celebrate October's Disability Month: **Commissioner Phillips, Chair Kizere** and **Vice Chair Mochel** volunteered.

Chair Kizere said a sub-committee lends significance to the effort. Discussion: Whether a formal CDC sub-committee or a committee under the Diversity Office would be more advantageous. **Staff** will inquire on a sub-committee of the commission which requires written notification to City Council. Membership of a CDC sub-committee would be limited to current members of the CDC.

A tentative date for the event was selected: **Saturday, October 24, 2015.**

Agenda Item # 7 – Tempe ADA Transition Plan by Commissioner Bennewitz.

Commissioner Bennewitz reported that Cole's Vice President/ Chief Strategist Belinda Banger will be submitting their contract for approval by City Council and, if approved, will be doing an inventory to provide current accessibility data to the City of Tempe. The inventory should start later this year.

Agenda Item # 8 – Status Update of Access Tempe Revision by ADA Compliance Specialist Michele Stokes

Preparations to update the 2009 Access Tempe brochure are underway. A potential agreement with www.BrettApproved.com is still under consideration. The City section and ASU's information should be completed in March. **Commissioner Bennewitz** requested non-profit services be included.

The draft of the brochure and list of resources will be submitted to the Commissioners for review prior to finalization.

Additionally, staff is working on identifying the newer apartments that are to be built in compliance with the Fair Housing standards. **Commissioner Ringhofer** and **Guest Jeff Oates** offered their assistance in inspections.

Agenda Item #9 – Commissioner and Staff's Announcements

Staff: An **ADA Training Conference** by the Pacific Disability and Technical Assistance Center is scheduled for the Phoenix Sheraton on April 12-14, 2015. Flyers are on the table for the **Annual African American Symposium** on February 27, 2015 and the **American Indian Disability Summit** on March 26, 2015, located at the Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Chair Kizere announced that he is now the contact for disability issues for TSA who provides screening services at Phoenix Sky Harbor and other airports.

Motion to adjourn was made by **Chair Kizere** and seconded by **Commissioner Moran**.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Prepared by: Michele Stokes

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Director